

EUROPE: In northern Europe, scattered showers (6-30 mm, with locally higher amounts) continued to slow winter wheat harvesting across England, Scandinavia, Germany, and northern Poland. Nevertheless, harvesting was nearing completion in these areas. In southern Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, mainly dry weather helped fieldwork in preparation for winter grain planting and aided late-filling to maturing summer crops. Farther south, scattered showers (12-34 mm, with locally higher amounts) in Austria, Hungary, and the Balkans improved topsoil moisture for winter wheat planting. However, more rain is needed in southern areas to erase long-term moisture deficits. Similarly, soaking rains are still needed in Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece, where dry weather continued. Although winter grain planting typically begins in September in southeastern Europe, preparations for this planting have been slowed by inadequate topsoil moisture. In northern Italy, light to moderate showers (15-42 mm, locally near 75 mm) hampered early corn and sunflower maturation and harvesting, but helped filling rice and soybeans. Similarly, occasional showers (7-20 mm) in France briefly delayed summer crop harvesting. However, periods of dry weather allowed fieldwork to progress. Farther south, dry weather across the Iberian peninsula helped summer crop maturation and harvesting. Temperatures across the continent averaged near normal, helping crop development and minimizing stress on filling to maturing summer crops.